Louisville Metro
Criminal Justice Commission

Biweekly Update

- Following the preliminary review of local justice data systems, Phase I of the project involving comprehensive system data collection and intensive analysis was launched in late 2012. The purpose of the project is to conduct extensive data analysis to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the front end of the local criminal justice system.

- The Arnold research team, headed by Marie VanNostrand, Ph.D., Luminosity Solutions, was on-site the weeks of April 29th and June 3rd to facilitate the remaining data collection efforts and review preliminary findings. At the present, initial analysis and validation has been completed for four agencies (Louisville Metro Corrections, Pretrial Services, Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Louisville Metro Police Department). The status of the request for data from the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts data remains pending.   The project consists of six parts; data analysis for the five agencies as well as a cross-agency merged dataset. The research team is currently working on merging the datasets where possible, but this cannot be completed until the court data is received.

- During the week of April 29th, Anne Milgram, Vice President of Criminal Justice, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, was on-site to meet with representatives from the Kentucky Court of Justice and Administrative Office of the Courts to introduce the Pretrial Demonstration Project in Jefferson County. Meetings were also held with the Code for America Fellows and several members of the local judiciary.

- On May 28th, the LJAF issued a national press release announcing a multi-year partnership with Louisville Metro Government. Over the course of the next several years, the demonstration site will focus on piloting innovations and testing system reforms to enhance public safety, control costs and safeguard justice. LJAF plans to evaluate the tools and system reforms implemented as part of the demonstration project with the aim of replicating nationwide those that have the greatest positive impact.

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- Upon completion of Phase I, the Arnold research team will present and discuss its findings with the members of the Metro Criminal Justice Commission Board and Jail Policy Committee. The presentation has been tentatively scheduled for October 10, 2013. Based upon the findings, possible points of intervention will be identified and the project will move into Phase II, which will focus on implementation of targeted initiatives along with research and testing.
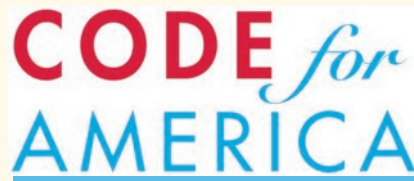
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- Although the CfA Fellows had initially selected the automated court date notification pilot as their technology project, the delay in the kick-off of the Arnold Foundation Pretrial Demonstration Project necessitated the need to consider alternative projects since the initial project involved a significant research component that would have to be designed and coordinated by the Arnold Research Team. The automated court date notification project will be pursued by the Arnold Foundation during the intervention phase.

- As a result, the Fellows returned to Louisville on June 10th to meet with stakeholders and discuss options for their technology project. The CfA Fellows ultimately identified two projects and chose to work on both: 1) a high-level, long-term overview of the information interchange between computer systems in the local criminal justice system, and 2) a criminal justice system dashboard of the jail population-related data.

A description of both projects is provided below:

Bureaulizer

The Louisville Criminal Justice System is complex, involving many state and local agencies. The agencies use different methods for processing information about people, and store that information in separate systems. Some of those systems are connected and share information automatically, but often data needs to be copied and exchanged manually using paper. This results in delays and errors.

The goal of the primary project is to **build a tool for visualizing and analyzing processes and connections between IT systems in the Metro Louisville criminal justice system.** The plan is to create a web-based framework for agencies to define, visualize, analyze, and maintain a map of information systems and information exchange processes. It is hoped that this effort will highlight various opportunities to improve the connections between systems, and make it easier for agencies to collaborate on joint information technology projects.

As a starting point, the CfA Fellows are attempting to provide an interactive, searchable map of data systems within the criminal justice system, and also a visualization of the inmate booking process. Upon completion, the project will be easily updateable and reusable within other organizations of similar size. Time permitting, the framework will illustrate additional system processes, and also provide the ability to track statistics (such as throughput, processing times, etc.) at critical decision points.

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Criminal Justice System Dashboard

Currently, the Director of Louisville Metro Corrections sends a weekly email to a small group of judges and other criminal justice agency heads, detailing capacity in the main jail facility as well as incarceration alternatives (such as the Community Corrections Center and Home Incarceration Program). The text-based report is hand-compiled by Metro Corrections staff.

The goal of the secondary project is to build on top of the email and turn it into **a visualization of the status of Louisville Metro Corrections population**. The goal is to inform judges and other stakeholders about the conditions in the Metro jail, provide meaningful data in a usable format, and promote understanding of how policy decisions impact outcomes. A secondary goal of the project is to make it easier to compile information for the visualization and ensure the application can be sustained.

The CfA Fellows are planning to create a dashboard that communicates: capacity in the main jail and incarceration alternatives, corrections population demographics, trends and time comparisons, bond/bail statistics and bond decision outcomes. Time permitting, the team will consider options for early-stage connectivity, annotation, and sharing as a means of determining what tools will help decision makers find and use data as a part of their jobs.

Next Up:

The CfA Fellows will develop mock-ups and will be seeking stakeholder feedback and will coordinate efforts with the Computerization Projects Committee.

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